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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PORTUGAL: PCP TO PULL OUT ALL STOPS?

PORTUGUESE MARINES EFFECTED THE DEPARTURE OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS FROM SAO BENTO PALACE SHORTLY AFTER NOON NOVEMBER 13. PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO, ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT DE BARROS, DEPUTY GOMES, AND CDS DELEGATE DE MELO REMAIN IN AZEVEDO'S RESIDENCE. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY LISBON:

--DESPITE THE DEPARTURE OF THE DEPUTIES, THE CROWD OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE CONTINUED TO GROW THURSDAY EVENING.

--PS LEADERS, UNABLE TO GENERATE A COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, REPORTEDLY WERE CONSIDERING DEMANDING A FIRM PCP PLEDGE TO PLAY BY THE
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RULES.

--A PPD SPOKESMAN SAID HIS PARTY BELIEVES THE PCP IS ATTEMPTING A COUP AND NOTES THAT COPCON SIMPLY IGNORED AZEVEDO'S NOVEMBER 12 ORDERS TO PREVENT THE DEMONSTRATION.

--AZEVEDO HAS SHOWN A DISPOSITION TO COMPROMISE IN NEGOTIATIONS, OFFERING TO ACCEPT THE DECISION OF A MIXED WORKER-GOVERNMENT COMMISSION. HE HAS TOLD THE WORKERS HE WILL NOT CEDE TO FORCE.

DURING THE NIGHT SOME 3,000 DEMONSTRATORS CAPTURED A RADIO STATION AT VISEU AND BROADCAST AN APPEAL TO THE MILITARY TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND THAT THE PCP IS DIRECTLY BEHIND THIS LATEST, SERIOUS CHALLENGE TO THE AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. PPD CANCELLATION AND PS HESITANCY ON THE BELEM COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION SHOW HOW SHAKEN THEY ARE BY THE POWER THE COMMUNISTS ARE DISPLAYING. SHOULD AZEVEDO MAKE A FALSE STEP, THE PCP COULD BE EMBOLDENED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS IN ITS EFFORTS TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 6737, 6761 AND 6741, 11/13.)

2. SAUDIS DRIVING YEMEN INTO SOVIET CAMP?

YAR CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI TOLD EMBASSY SANA NOVEMBER 12 THAT HE RETURNED FROM HIS RECENT VISITS TO RIYADH WITHOUT SAUDI COMMITMENTS TO SUPPLY ARMS. GHASHMI ELABORATED:

--DURING THE TALKS, PRINCE SULTAN FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON YEMEN'S "WEAK INTERNAL SITUATION" AND THE CONTINUING INFLUENCE OF LEFTISTS.

--HAMDI HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPAL TO VISITS TO THE USSR BY YEMENI OFFICERS ON NOVEMBER 19 AND NOVEMBER 27 FOR DISCUSSION OF "SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS."

--IF THE SAUDIS DON'T COME THROUGH SOON, GHASHMI CAN-
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NOT HOLD ON AS CHIEF OF STAFF AND HAMDI WILL HAVE TO APPOINT SOMEONE MORE FRIENDLY TO THE SOVIETS.

WHILE GHASHMI AND HAMDI HAVE DESCRIBED THE TRIPS TO THE YAR CABINET AND MILITARY AS GLOWING SUCCESSES, GHASHMI PRIVATELY MADE AN IMPASSIONED PLEA FOR US INTERCESSION WITH THE SAUDIS. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANA 3166, 11/13.)

3. ECUADOR: A STRIKE BUT NO COUP

THE THREE MAJOR ECUADOREAN LABOR CONFEDERATIONS CALLED A GENERAL STRIKE NOVEMBER 13, POSSIBLY IN AN ATTEMPT TO BRING DOWN THE RODRIGUEZ GOVERNMENT. THE STRIKE IGNITED STUDENT-RADICAL DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO MAJOR CIVIL DISTURBANCES.

--THE STRIKE HAS SINCE ABATED AND THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO ENJOY THE UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES.

--EX-PRESIDENT AROSEMENA, WHO HAD CALLED FOR CIVIL RESISTANCE, AND CONSERVATIVE LEADER TRUJILLO HAVE BEEN FLOWN INTO EXILE IN BOLIVIA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP DOES NOT AT THIS POINT SEEM LIKELY, BUT SHOULD ONE OCCUR, IT WILL NOT BE THE RESULT OF THE STRIKE, BUT A CONSEQUENCE OF A SHIFT IN THE BALANCE OF POWER WITHIN THE MILITARY. (CONFIDENTIAL) QUITO 8283, 8298 AND 8282, 11/12.)

4. INDIA RELEASES DETAINED OPPOSITION LEADER

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS RELEASED 73 YEAR OLD OPPOSITION LEADER J. P. NARAYAN FROM DETENTION. NOTING THAT NARAYAN'S FRAGILE HEALTH MAY HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN A TURN FOR THE WORSE, EMBASSY NEW DELHI SPECULATES THAT MRS. GANDHI AUTHORIZED HIS RELEASE TO DEFLECT CRITICISM FROM ABROAD AND A POSSIBLE VIOLENT REACTION AT HOME WERE NARAYAN TO DIE IN DETENTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 15094, 11/13.) KISSINGER

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